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may not be out of place here to call the attention of students of CERVANTES' immortal work to BRAUNFELS' translation, which for accuracy and faithfulness to the spirit of the original is fully equal to that of ORMSBY.

HENRY R. LANG.

New Bedford, Mass.

DERIDES.

In MILTON's line,

"Sport that wrinkled Care derides,"

is it not possible that the poet had in mind the French *dérider*, rather than the Latin *derideo*? Littré defines *dérider*, "effacer les rides; ôter au front toute apparence soucieuse."

The line would then mean, "Recreation, that smooths the wrinkles from the brow of care."

W. H. B.

Johns Hopkins University.

SHOULD A POET BE A PHILOLOGIST?

In a very well edited volume of 'Select Poems of Robert Browning' issued in the "English Classic" series under the care of MR. ROLFE and MISS HERSEY, occurs on page 195 the following note: "Line 96, *cowls and twats*. *Twats* is in no dictionary. We now have it from the poet (through DR. FURNIVALL) that he got the word from the Royalist rhymes entitled "Vanity of Vanities," on SIR HARRY VANE's picture. VANE is charged with being a Jesuit.

"Tis said they will give him a cardinal's hat:
They sooner will give him an old nun's twat."

"The word struck me," says BROWNING, "as a distinctive part of a nun's attire that might fitly pair off with the cowl appropriated to a monk."

And yet this word is in many a dictionary (notably BAILEY, vol II, ed. 1737; WRIGHT, ed. 1857; HALLIWELL, ed. 1881), and its relation to the M. H. G. *Zwatzler* can be easily set forth.

MONK.

'AS SHE IS SPOKE.'

No one need deplore the lack of material, who should set himself to make a pathological museum of linguistic malformations. Alienists, they say, come to regard every one as insane.

There is no pleasure or profit in making a collection of broken bottles, in fact any one can break as many bottles as he cares to pay for. It is when a man imagines that his particular broken ware is whole, that his case is worth studying; and then there's that "plaguy hundredth chance" that it may turn out to *be* whole after all. Let us be thankful to the neologists, even if they do not mark all their discoveries with stars.

Some may like this construction, which I find in the New York *Evening Post* for May 14, 1887: "Some of the vessels . . . resisted successfully one vessel to be taken by another."—Probably few of MR. GEO. E. MCNEILL's hearers (of the Labor Party) failed to understand him when he said, as quoted in the Boston *Transcript*, July 8, 1887: "Once we were without the benefit of clergy, but now we have the sympathy and help both of Protestant Ministers and Catholic Priests."—Perhaps some dictionary may contain the definition of the last word of the sentence which was uttered by a maker of nautical instruments: "Though he was in the merchant service, yet he was a fine lunarian."—Some colored people in New Bedford talk about the "Lion gale," as the equinox draws near. Our janitor explains: "They are that ignorant, you know, they think it's called so because it is so boisterous."—*Portière* does not fit some Yankee lips as well as "Portera."—A business man of my acquaintance insisted that it *was* "insomania" that afflicted MR. JAY GOULD; for he read it in a newspaper.

ANDREW INGRAHAM.

New Bedford, Mass.

BRIEF MENTION.

The summer months have ushered into existence a new periodical, to which we now, at our earliest opportunity, extend a hearty welcome. With some fitness of phrase it may be said that the *American Notes and Queries* was for a short time, at the beginning of its career, an emblem of the months that witnessed its inception and early life. Born in the not too serious though promising month of May, it soon fulfilled one and another pledge of pleasant fruits, and then on sturdy stalk yielded the golden corn of solid worth. This weekly visitor with its treasures new and old

should not willingly be turned from any door. It gathers from wide and varied domains—from Language, Literature, History, Manners and Customs, and what not!—and there are wise heads behind quick eyes to reject the worthless and to honor the good of what is taken with so large a net.

A more formal and stately, yet no less cordial greeting, as becomes the few and far-between visits of an octavo quarterly, is gladly accorded to the new *Journal of American Folk-lore*, published for the American Folk-lore Society by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., New York and Boston. The Society is to be congratulated upon the substantial and diversified contents and attractive appearance of the two numbers which have already appeared. It is understood that the American Society's membership has already outstripped that of its much elder English sister.

MR. A. J. GEORGE, Acting Professor of English Literature in Boston University, has published an edition, annotated for school-room use, of WORDSWORTH'S 'Prelude or Growth of a Poet's Mind; An Autobiographical Poem' (D. C. Heath & Co., Boston). Every reader of the "Excursion" is not, necessarily, equally familiar with "The Prelude," and many general readers may be unaware of the organic relation of the one to the other. "The Prelude" has had a curious history; though completed as early as the year 1805, its first publication was subsequent to the poet's death, and it has remained for MR. GEORGE to prepare the first separate edition that has ever seen the light. In the performance of this important service MR. GEORGE has proceeded in an intelligent and a broadly sympathetic manner. The Preface gives a well constructed outline of the poetic genius of WORDSWORTH, and breathes the spirit of an earnest conviction that the study of his work is especially adapted to supply important benefits to modern society. There are prevalent moods and tendencies of thought in this utilitarian age, that there find their true valuation for all time. The relation of poetry to science, for example, has the freshness to-day of a new problem, and yet neither poet nor scientist has better grasped its inherent truth, nor given it more effective expression.

WORDSWORTH indeed belongs to the great teachers of humanity that "Help life onward in its noblest aim." The editor's chief business has been to supply a body of "Notes" for the elucidation and explanation of the text. This he has well done, attaining to unusual excellence in the important feature of a minute and accurate study of the local history and geography of the poem. MR. GEORGE'S volume is an important contribution to Wordsworthian studies.

'The Phonological Investigation of Old English, Illustrated by a series of Fifty Problems' (Ginn & Co., Boston), is a novel pamphlet of 26 pages by PROF. A. S. COOK. The object in view is to show what factors are involved in a systematic account of Old English words and speech-sounds. It is argued that the method of investigation is necessarily comparative, involving "a consideration of related words and speech-sounds in the kindred Germanic tongues." Tables of vowel and consonant correspondences are given to aid in a summary view of such comparison, and a list of important works, to which more or less constant reference must be had, accompanies a few brief definitions of the details of the method. The author then fancies himself in a classroom; he is teaching beginners in the more advanced forms of English philology; the text-book is SWEET'S 'Anglo-Saxon Reader.' The book is opened at page 36, and the entry of the Chronicle under the year 894 is subjected to special scrutiny. Fifty of the nouns and verbs found in this paragraph are, at apparent random, taken up and made the subjects of fifty separate and consecutively numbered expositions. The construction of these "problems" is highly synoptical, so that a specimen may easily be given. One of the selected words is *hām* (home). The rubric reads: "OHG. *heim*; OS. *hēm*; ON. *heimr*; Goth. *haims*," and then follows the discussion: "*h* and *m* are constant. Goth. *s* here represents *z* (Braune¹ 74. c). OHG. *ei*=Germ. *ai* (Braune² 15. b), as does ON. *ei* (Noreen 156). This Germ. *ai*=OE. *á* (Gr. 62). Hence Germ. *haimoz* (usually *o*-stem)." This pamphlet will be welcome to many doubtful minds for showing to what uses the appalling first half of SIEVERS' Grammar may be put, as well as for

the specific help it will afford to such as are struggling under less favorable conditions with initial modes of study in the broad domain of English philology.

Teachers whose approval has been won by MISS DORiot's engaging book for Beginners in French (cf. MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES, Vol. I, p. 126) will be pleased to learn that MISS DORiot has now in press a companion volume for Beginners in German (Ginn & Co.). This new volume is constructed upon the same novel plan that has won for the first so unique a place in the list of text-books, but it will also be found to be better than the first. Both author and artist have been wise enough to profit by experience, and their second task has accordingly been performed with the touch of assurance that is the reward of patiently wrought-out maturity. The artist's German descent is a factor that has not had an unfavorable effect upon this new volume. It will be found that the playful illustrations which give glimpses of German life and customs are delightfully true and effective; in their quaint attractiveness there are new pleasures in store for those who have hitherto only known the consolation (often prematurely) of *Ich liebe, Du liebst, Er liebt*.

M. CLÉDAT, avec le concours de M. M. LUMIÈRE, de Lyon, entreprend la publication d'une 'Collection de reproductions photolithographiques intégrales de Manuscrits latins, français et provençaux.' Chaque volume sera précédé d'une introduction qui sera confiée au savant le plus compétent. Les personnes qui désireraient recevoir régulièrement les prospectus de cette publication, afin de pouvoir souscrire en temps utile aux volumes qui leur conviendraient, sont priées de se faire connaître à M. CLÉDAT, professeur à la faculté des Lettres de Lyon.

A few months ago one of our able and most active professors of English literature, MELVILLE B. ANDERSON (University of Iowa) gave us an admirable translation into English of VICTOR HUGO's model work of philosophic criticism, æsthetic appreciation and clean-cut exposition of literary canons, as laid down in his 'Shakspeare.' This is a valuable addition in the domain of *belles-lettres* for the exclu-

sively English reader; but another translation of an extensive work has just reached us, which shows continued activity in this direction of turning French into English, 'History of the People of Israel till the time of King David,' by ERNEST RENAN (Boston: Roberts Brothers. Price \$2.50). This is a portly octavo work, 362 pages, and is the first of a series of three volumes which, the author tells us, he formed a plan forty years ago to write on the 'History of the Origin of Christianity;' and though here "the great religious movement of Israel which swept the world along with it, has scarcely begun (p. xiii)," yet the fertile thinker knows how to fascinate the reader with his artistic presentation of the subject, some of the spirit and life of which the translator (whose name is not given) seems to have caught in its transfer to the Anglo-Saxon idiom.

The *Verhandlungen des zweiten allgemeinen deutschen Neuphilologentages* (held at Frankfort in the Easter holidays of last year) ought to be specially attractive to all workers in modern languages on this side of the Atlantic. This little octavo volume, covering eighty pages, gives one an idea of the extraordinarily rapid development in Germany of that unity of feeling which is so necessary to promote the interests of a new department of learning; for example, in the year 1887, the Association had the phenomenal increase from 306 to 700, and at present numbers not less than 800 members. DR. KORTEGARN (Frankfort) in his remarks preliminary to the report of the proceedings of this Convention, voices the sentiments of his colleagues in expressing the wish that the third meeting may bring together a stately number of members "zur Pflege der neuern Philologie, der germanischen wie der romanischen, und insbesondere zur Förderung einer lebhaften Wechselwirkung zwischen Universität und Schule, zwischen Wissenschaft und Praxis." This purpose, thus formulated, constitutes the fundamental doctrine of the organisation, and it is natural, therefore, that a majority of the topics which occupied the conference should have been particularly on the side of pedagogics. Papers were presented on the following subjects: Stellung und Ziele des Vereins für deutsche Lehrer in London, von HERRN BAUMANN (President of the German

Lehrerverein in London); Plan und Textprobe eines neuen Werkes, Alt-England, von PROF. DR. BRENNER (Elberfeld); Die Perts'sche Methode in ihrer Anwendung auf die neueren Sprachen, von Herrn Gymnasiallehrer HAUSCHILD (Frankfort); Die freien schriftlichen Arbeiter im Französischen und Englischen, von Herrn Realgymnasial Oberlehrer DR. AHN (Bad Lauterberg); Der Anfangsunterricht im Französischen, von Herrn Realschullehrer DR. QUIEHL (Cassel); Über den Wert des Übersetzens in die fremde Sprache, von Herr Realgymnasiallehrer DR. KÜHN (Wiesbaden); Über französische Lexicographie, von Herrn Professor DR. SACHS (Brandenburg a. d. H.). Reports of the interesting discussions on these papers are given, and a full account of the social features of the occasion, to all of which is appended a complete list of the members of the Association, with their addresses. The third Convention of which we hope to present an account in our next issue, was held at Dresden on September 29 and 30, 1888.

MESSRS. MCCLURG & Co., of Chicago, have announced a translation of the important French work, "Les grands Écrivains français," the publications of which was begun in Paris last year. The series will contain: 'Madame de Sévigné,' by GASTON BOSSIER; 'George Sand,' by E. CARO; 'Montesquieu,' by ALBERT SOREL; 'Voltaire,' by FERDINAND BRUNETIÈRE; 'Racine,' by ANATOLE FRANCE; 'Rousseau,' by M. CHERBULIEZ; 'Victor Cousin,' by JULES SIMON; 'Lamartine,' by M. DE POMAIROLS; 'Balzac,' by PAUL BOURGET; 'Musset,' by JULES LEMAÎTRE; 'Sainte-Beuve,' by H. TAINE; 'Guizot,' by G. MONOD.

The Publishing House, FORZANI & Co., of Rome, Italy, announce a *Nuova Pubblicazione*, by subscription, of deep interest: 'Poesie di Settcento Autori intorno a Dante Alighieri.' These compositions will be arranged chronologically, and published in octavo volumes of 500 pages each; the edition will consist of 500 numbered copies, of which the last will contain a list of the subscribers. Price per volume, 8 lire. Address: Via Dogana Vecchia 26, Roma.

PERSONAL.

The Trustees of Ripon College (Ripon, Wis-

consin) have generously granted to PROFESSOR A. H. TOLMAN the privilege of pursuing his English studies in Europe during the present academic year.

FRANCIS H. STODDARD, Instructor in the English Language and Literature at the University of California (cf. MOD. LANG. NOTES, vol. I, col. 307), has been called to the chair of English in the University of the City of New York, with the title of Professor of the English Language and Literature. It is gratifying to learn that this professorship, newly created and endowed by an alumnus of the University, is intended to provide for graduate instruction and to supplement the already existing undergraduate courses.

PROFESSOR W. H. CARRUTH has been appointed to a Morgan Fellowship for the coming year at Harvard University. MR. CARRUTH was graduated at the Kansas State University (Lawrence) in 1880 and immediately thereafter was made Assistant in his Alma Mater for German and French; in 1882 he was promoted to the professorship of German and French, which position he still holds. The year 1885-86 was spent, on leave of absence, at the universities of Berlin and Munich, where PROFESSOR CARRUTH continued his studies in the Germanic department. He is now engaged in investigating the "Superlative in Modern German" and "Herder's Style."

FRANK G. HUBBARD, who received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the Johns Hopkins University a year ago, and has since January last given courses in English at Smith College (Northampton, Mass.), has gone to Oxford, England, there to pursue special work in English philology and literature.

CHARLES F. MCCLUMPHA, who was graduated at Princeton College in 1885 and received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Leipsic in March, 1888, has been called to Bryn Mawr College as Associate Instructor in the department of English. MR. MCCLUMPHA studied under Professors WÜLKER and ZARNCKE, and offered for his doctorate a thesis upon "The Alliteration of Chaucer."

W. C. TODD, who has recently returned from Paris, where he spent the past year in